

**Community Systems Development Subcommittee  
Systems Alignment and Integration Committee, ELC**

June 13, 2013, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Children's Home + Aid, 125 S. Wacker Drive, 14th Floor, Women's Board Room, Chicago, IL

These minutes were approved at the July 31, 2013 meeting of the Community Systems Development Subcommittee.

**I. Welcome and Introductions:**

Present were: Casey Amayun, Valeska Anleu, Karen Berman, Charaine Boyd, Jeanna Capito, Eileen DeRoze, Donna Emmons, Elissa Gitlow, Artishia Hunter, Dana Keim, Lori Longueville, Denise McCaffrey, Veronica Mercado, Karen Miller, Carolyn Newberry-Schwartz, April Peska, Trish Rooney, Andrea Sass, Penny Smith, Kathy Stohr, Joanna Su, Candace Williams, Granada Williams, Jay Young.

**II. Review and Approval of Minutes (April 12, 2013):**

There was a motion, seconded, to approve the minutes from the April 12 2013 CSDS meeting with the correction to add Charaine Boyd as present during the meeting; the motion was unanimously carried.

**III. Workplan Priorities and Next Steps**

In April and May, two small groups met to refine the workplan. Karen Berman provided an update about how the CSDS will move forward regarding the work plan. Karen shared the news about the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge (RTTT-ELC) receiving additional funding of \$17 million. Through RTTT-ELC, Illinois Action for Children received funding to provide community level systems support through the Consortium for Community Systems Development. The Consortium's work will build on the tools and resources developed by the CSDS and will seek input from CSDS in shaping a strategic plan for CSD to be developed by July 2014. IAFC is in the process of developing its workplan and timeline and will share this with the CSDS so that the CSDS can incorporate the relevant goals, objectives and activities into its workplan.

**IV. State Community Systems Initiatives**

- A. MIECHV: A one page handout was shared with the subcommittee. Jay Young and Joanna Su provided technical assistance and support to CSDs in six MIECHV-funded home visiting communities. Each community's CSD and Coordinated Intake worker are expected to work closely as a team to streamline and enhance referrals for families, and to support their local early childhood collaborative.
- B. Race To The Top/ Consortium for Community Systems Development: Kathy Stohr provided a written update about the RTTT Consortium's plans, including a conference on March 31 in Springfield. The Consortium will develop a strategic plan for CSD in Illinois that looks at national models, existing structures, resources, and tools, and creates a state vision for CSD. During the March 31 conference, community feedback will be collected as part of the planning process, and the final plan will be presented to the ELC by July 30, 2014. A consultant will be brought in to lead this process, and a small group of 10 to 15 stakeholders (including members of the CSDS) will provide guidance to the process.

Kathy asked for feedback on what CSDS members would like to see from the planning process:

- Elissa- A crosswalk of who is doing what and how the work overlaps; how do we get this information out so that people do not think they are starting from scratch?
- Carolyn – a clear alignment between state systems and how that will look locally, because there is so much fragmentation.
- Trish – information-sharing is an obstacle: how do we work as one cohesive system?
- Granada- as collaborations are at different levels, how do we define where collaborations are on the continuum to support them and scaffold their development?
- Karen B – if we are making changes to support a state infrastructure with specific functions and expectations for collaborations, a strategic plan should incorporate what this should look like at the state level.

- Jeanna- we currently have tools to help communities assess themselves but if we have a concrete consensus of where collaborations should be, we need to help provide the support for them to get there.
  - Kathy S. – geography is an issue: we need to ensure there is coverage across the state to support communities, and yet be mindful of what currently exists locally. We should think about the fact that we have different service systems that collaborations are reporting to, and how we can make this better.
  - Elissa- how does this impact the dashboard? (Jeanna replied that the dashboard group has not met recently, but this is still on the table.)
  - Carolyn Newberry – one of their constant struggles is creating and managing a unified data set for local communities – she is aware that the state is having this conversations but it would help advance the work if local systems were a part of that conversation, regarding the local barriers to data collection. If we are going to measure our process we have to have good data to help inform a collaboration's impact.
  - Karen B.- the strategic plan should identify the data sets are communities need to help inform and improve their work. The data sets people are working on at the state level should be connected to local work.
  - Penny: from ISBE – Ana Maria Accove at DHS (through the community of practice) has reached out to program staff within DHS and they have invited Reyna Hernandez and Cindy Zumwalt from ISBE; ISBE will also come together as funders to stay connected to what is happening in these communities.
  - Jeanna – it is not just the division or department heads that need to be aligned, but also the managers who are carrying out and overseeing the work.
  - Granada- Head Start wants to be involved in this process and conversation.
  - Kathy S. would like to see some common messages about the value of community collaborations and how to consistently communicate that message.
  - Karen B. – once collaborations have a defined purpose in terms of accountability, that will help support a shared vision and communication.
  - Jeanna offered to provide the resources and tools that have been drafted previously by the CSDS.
  - Kathy Stohr welcomed additional feedback related to this discussion and the strategic planning process.
- C. Early Childhood Community Systems proposal submitted by ICAAP: ICAAP submitted an early childhood community systems proposal and will be invited to share details once they receive the funding confirmation.

#### **V. Presentation: SPARK (Strong, Prepared, And Ready for Kindergarten)**

Trish Rooney provided an overview of SPARK and its accomplishments (please see handouts).

#### **VI. Updates**

- A. CSDS Updates: CSDS will share updates on the toolkit revisions and community partnerships profiles at the June 25<sup>th</sup> Early Learning Council meeting.
- B. Other Community Updates
1. DHS Early Childhood Community of Practice: Joanna reported that Ana Maria Accove has been working with a consultant to align community systems related expectations and efforts among DHS programs.

#### **VII. Proposed Meeting Schedule**

Wednesday, July 31, 10am  
 Tuesday, September 10, 10am  
 Thursday, November 21, 10am (week before Thanksgiving)  
 Thursday, January 16, 10 am

Attachments: CSDS Agenda, April 12 2013 minutes, MIECHV update, RTTT update, SPARK annual report, SPARK powerpoint presentation, and SPARK fact sheet.